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2010 AASU Pirate Volleyball Classic: Day One Wrapup





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SAVANNAH, Ga. - Rollins and North Alabama were the only two teams to emerge from the first day of the 2010 AASU Pirate Volleyball Classic unscathed after Friday's action concluded on the campus of Armstrong Atlantic State University.

The Tars (5-1) notched a 25-16, 25-18, 29-27 win over host Armstrong Atlantic to begin their day. Reigning SSC Offensive Player of the Week Sarah Mendoza led all players with 14 kills while Megan Hodges hit .435 with 11 kills and 12 digs. AASU was led by Torrie Bevolo's nine kills, Megan Pando's match-high 25 assists and Casey Howett's 12 digs.

Rollins then completed the day with a 19-25, 25-19, 25-14, 25-23 win over previously unbeaten and No. 22-ranked Flagler. Hodges led the way by hitting .450 with 19 kills, while Mendoza added 15 kills. The Saints were led by reigning PBC Player of the Week Meg Weathersby's match-high 20 kills and Casey Gnann's match-high 23 digs.

North Alabama, meanwhile, survived a pair of five-set matches to escape the first day without a loss. The Lions (3-2) began the afternoon with a 16-25, 25-17, 32-30, 7-25, 15-11 win over Augusta State as four North Alabama players reached double figure kills, led by Sarah Roberts' 17 kills and Natalie Marsh's 16. Hope Rayburn dished out 60 assists and Lauren Greenhill tallied 24 digs. Augusta State was led by Lagi Roberts' 15 kills and Lisa Bartsch's 35 assists and 10 digs.

The Lions then knocked off Florida Southern in another five-set thriller, 25-17, 21-25, 25-20, 17-25, 15-13, behind 16 kills and six blocks from Roberts, 14 kills and 11 digs from Marsh, 48 assists from Rayburn and 32 digs from Greenhill. Florida Southern was led by 11 kills from Natalie Arvizu and 15 assists and 13 digs from Ali Skayhan.

The host Pirates (5-2) earned a split of their first day of action with a 25-15, 25-14, 25-11 win over Alabama-Huntsville (1-5). AASU hit .387 as a team in the win, led by Jessica Santaniello's .471 hitting percentage and match-high 10 kills and 10 digs. Amanda Jones hit .667 with 8 kills and Megan Pando added 31 assists, seven digs and four service aces. Jessica Ruple led the Chargers with eight kills and eight digs.

In other action, No. 22-ranked Flagler (5-1) knocked off West Georgia in four sets, 25-15, 25-20, 11-25, 25-21. Meg Weathersby led all players for the Saints by hitting .452 with 16 kills to go with 10 digs, while Casey Gnann added 15 digs and Rachel Stacy notched six blocks. West Georgia (2-5) was led by reigning Gulf South Conference East Division Player of the Week Ellie Murphy's match-high 16 digs and Audrey Hipple's nine kills.

Augusta State (2-4) picked up its first win ever in Pirate Volleyball Classic history with a 26-24, 19-25, 25-21, 25-20 win over

Florida Tech. Lagi Roberts, Karolina Stenlund and Mandy Irizarry each collected 12 kills for the Jaguars while Andria Tagarellia notched 23 digs and Lisa Bartsch delivered 37 assists and four service aces. Florida Tech was led by Janelle Branch and Shelby DeNeice, who each had 10 kills, and Ashley Bryant's 22 digs.

Florida Tech (3-3) notched a 25-23, 25-16, 25-22 win over Alabama-Huntsville earlier in the day. The Panthers hit .248 in the match and got nine kills each from Caitlyn Ballweber and Brittany Ferry, while Alexis Mastela had 34 assists and Ashley Bryant added 17 digs. Alabama-Huntsville was led by Kelsey Williams' 11 kills and Kelly Wilson's 25 assists and 11 digs.

Florida Southern (5-1) earned a 25-15, 25-16, 25-15 win over West Georgia earlier in the day. Elena Sorich led the way with 14 kills and a .650 hitting percentage, while Kendall Wilde added 16 assists and six digs. Jasmine Dotson led the Wolves with eight kills.

Play concludes on Saturday with nine matches, beginning with a trio at 10:00 a.m. as Augusta State faces Florida Southern, North Alabama takes on Flagler and Alabama-Huntsville faces Rollins. The host Pirates are in action at 12:30 p.m. against West Georgia and at 4:30 p.m. against Florida Southern.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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